CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) A method of forming a peer-to-peer group, comprising the steps of selecting a friendly name for the group ($NAME_G$), calculating a category identification (CID) for the group, and providing the CID to a peer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of calculating the CID comprises the step of hashing the $NAME_G$ with a seed GROUP.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the peer-to-peer group is to be private, wherein the step of providing the CID to a peer comprises the step of sending the CID to the peer out of band.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the peer-to-peer group is to be public, wherein the step of providing the CID to a peer comprises the step of registering the CID with a peer-to-peer name resolution protocol (PNRP) for discovery therethrough.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of concatenating a peer ID with the CID to derive CID:ID, and registering CID:ID with PNRP for discovery therethrough.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving a connect message from the peer and returning a welcome message to the peer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of calculating a signature of a group object database, and sending the signature to the peer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the step of calculating the signature of the group object database comprises the steps of combining a unique identification (UID),

sequence number (SNUM), and age for each group object in the group object database, and sorting a list of the combined UIDs/SNUMs/ages for the group objects.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the steps of receiving a request for specific group objects from the peer, and transmitting the specific group objects to the peer.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of receiving a connect message from the peer and returning a refuse message to the peer along with a list of other members of the group.

11. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

12.-26.   (Canceled)

27. (Original) A method of joining a peer-to-peer group, comprising the steps of sending a connect message to a first member of the group, receiving a refuse message including contact information for at least a second member of the group, sending a connect message to the second member of the group, and receiving a welcome message from the second member.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the contact information includes contact information for a plurality of members of the group, further comprising the steps of selecting one of the plurality of members of the group, and sending a connect message to the one of the plurality of members of the group.

29.-53.   (Canceled)